

In Sports: Maddie Parsons, of MHS; Ella Gahl, of NHS, highlight girls wrestling state finals. Page A9

Wabash Plain Dealer

\$3

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Tomorrow's weather

33 | 21



Pulse
of Wabash

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Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 26 and Feb. 23 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesdays, Feb. 9 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Democratic Secretary of State candidate to visit Wabash

A Democratic candidate

See **PULSE**, page A5

Inside

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Illinois police officer Tyler J. Bailey released from ICU after shooting

Sgt. Marlene R. Rittmanic, 49, was laid to rest Jan. 7

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

An injured Illinois police officer has been released from the intensive care unit (ICU) after fighting for his life for weeks following a shooting that left another officer dead.

A suspect in the case was recently arrested at a residence in North Manchester.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the family of Bradley Police Department officer Tyler J. Bailey, 27, said he had been released into regular hospital care as his condition improved.

The Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 3 is investigating a shooting involving officers from the Bradley

Police Department in Bradley, Illinois, according to the Illinois State Police. At around 12:20 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, the Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 3 was requested to investigate the shooting of two Bradley Police Department police officers. Preliminary reports indicate that BPD officers responded to a hotel in the 1500 block of North State Highway 50 for a noise complaint. While investigating

the incident, BPD officers initiated a conversation with subjects inside of the hotel, according to the Illinois State Police. During the interaction, Sgt. Marlene R. Rittmanic,

See **BAILEY**, page A4

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the family of Bradley Police Department officer Tyler J. Bailey, 27, said he had been released into regular hospital care as his condition improved.



Snow blankets region

NWS: Wind chill advisory in effect Wednesday morning

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

For the first time in weeks, the area received a thick blanket of snowfall as storms rolled through the region on Sunday and Monday.

On Tuesday, National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologist Pat Murphy said there were about 2 to 3 inches of snow accumulation throughout the area on Monday, and combined with Sunday's storms added up to a total of 3 to 5 inches for both days.

Murphy said it has been an uncommonly dry winter.

"Looking at Fort Wayne, which is the closest observing climate station, for the month we're 4 inches below normal on snowfall and for the entire season we're 11 inches below normal," said Murphy.

Murphy said there was a chance of snow late Thursday, "but it does not look it's a significant accumulation with this system."

According to the NWS, a wind chill advisory remains in effect from 1 to 11 a.m. Wednesday for portions of northern Indiana and northwestern Ohio, with "very cold wind chills expected," as



Provided photo by Candis Huffman

There were about 2 to 3 inches of snow accumulation throughout the area on Monday, and combined with Sunday's storms added up to a total of 3 to 5 inches for both days

low as negative 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

"The cold wind chills could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 30 minutes," stated the NWS. "Use caution while traveling outside. Wear appropriate

clothing (including) a hat and gloves."

For more information, visit weather.gov.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainealer.com.

See more
photos on
Page A2

Manchester hosts Polar Plunge to aid Special Olympics Indiana

Each person needs to raise a minimum of \$85 to plunge

By **ANNE GREGORY**

Manchester University invites area groups and individuals to take part in the Polar Plunge, a fundraising event to help support Special Olympics Indiana.

Freezin' for a Reason begins

with registration from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 near the new ticket booth at the Spartan Stadium on Manchester's North Manchester campus.

"The big splash begins at noon. This is a great way for individuals and teams to make a big difference for Special Olympics while having a blast," said MU Student Life Office Manager Kelsey Gower, who is helping organize the event.

Each person needs to raise a "bear" minimum of \$85 to plunge. Team members can sign up as participants, which means they jump in the water, or "virtual plungers," who raise money but do not get wet.

Special Olympics Indiana's signature fundraiser, the Polar Plunge is a series of events held each winter where individuals and teams brave the elements by taking an icy dip to demonstrate their commit-

ment to the cause. All funds raised by the events directly benefit more than 18,000 Special Olympics athletes throughout Indiana, giving them the means to train locally and compete at the state level in Olympic-type sports.

Step 1: Register online as an in-person or virtual participant at <https://secure.e2rm.com/p2p/location/367864>

Step 2: Fundraise by sharing

See **PLUNGE**, page A5

ISDH reports two new local COVID deaths; total now 141

Most current cases in state positive for Omicron variant

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Over the weekend, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported two new local COVID-19 deaths.

On Monday, Jan. 24, the ISDH added one additional local COVID-19 death over the weekend, bringing Wabash County's total to 140. On Tuesday, Jan. 25, the ISDH added another local COVID-19 death, bringing Wabash County's total to 141.

Two weeks ago, the ISDH moved Wabash County's

See **DEATHS**, page A4

Air Force selects Calif. base as new tanker home

In June 2021, Wabash City Council announced support of Grissom ARB as alternative

By **JARED KEEVER**
and **ROB BURGESS**

Grissom Air Reserve Base (ARB) will not be the next home for the Air Force's newest tanker aircraft, despite public efforts from the Wabash City Council and other local and state leaders.

"The Department of the Air Force selected March Air Reserve Base, California, as the preferred location to host the next KC-46A Pegasus aircraft," a news release from the Air Force said early this week. "The decision was made after conducting site surveys that assessed locations

See **TANKER**, page A5



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Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to hold February meeting






The Wabash County Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave., according to regent Barbara Amiss.

The program will be on Joseph White's Residential & Family Services by Dana Brady.

"Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend," said Amiss. "DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution."





Those having questions about their family history lineage information may visit www.dar.org or call Tamra Wise at 574-527-2208 or Amiss at 260-982-4376.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Wednesday Sunny 19 / 12	 Thursday Mostly Cloudy 33 / 21	 Friday Mostly Cloudy 27 / 10	 Saturday Mostly Sunny 24 / 15	 Sunday Mostly Cloudy 35 / 20
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:56 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:54 a.m.

 New 2/1	 First 2/8	 Full 2/16	 Last 2/23
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see sunny skies with a high temperature of 19°, humidity of 51%. West wind 2 to 8 mph. Expect clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 12°. South southeast wind 3 to 7 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 4°.

SNOW BLANKETS REGION



Provided photo by Tabitha Welch
A thick coat of fur was helpful as the temperatures dropped.



Provided photo by Aaron and Trisha Eckman
Aaron and Trisha Eckman sent this photo of children enjoying the snow.



Provided photo by Charity Williams
There is also a chance of snow late Thursday.



Provided photo by Terri Marsh
Some dogs found the snow delicious.



Provided photo by Tiffany Wagner-Kelly
The weather didn't stop the birds' search for food.



Provided photo by Maegan M. Beeks
The NWS advises those who go outdoors wear appropriate clothing including a hat and gloves.



Provided photo by Katherin Besser
Dogs weren't the only animals out in the snow.



By ROB BURGESS / Wabash Plain Dealer Editor
According to the NWS, a wind chill advisory remains in effect from 1 to 11 a.m. Wednesday for portions of northern Indiana and northwest Ohio, with "very cold wind chills expected," as low as negative 20 degrees Fahrenheit.



Provided photo by Amy Snapp Miller
Dogs were seen enjoying the snow over the weekend.

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Obituaries

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY FALL UNDERGRADUATE DEAN’S LIST

By ANNE GREGORY

Manchester University congratulates 357 undergraduate students who were named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List. At the end of each semester, the Office of Academic Affairs publishes the Dean’s List. Students earning a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher who have completed at least 12 semester hours with no more than three hours of Pass/Not Pass grades are included on the Dean’s List. Students with more than one hour of Incomplete or Not Recorded grades at the end of the semester are not eligible for the Dean’s List. Area students were named

to the list were:
■ Eva Bazzoni, of Wabash, majoring in nursing.
■ Tasha Brubaker, of North Manchester, majoring in environmental studies and biology.
■ Tyler Colpitts, of North Manchester, majoring in accounting.
■ Kaden Dillon, of North Manchester, majoring in business management.
■ Kennedy Fillmore, of North Manchester, majoring in digital media and public relations.
■ Samantha Hendricks, of Wabash, majoring in music education.
■ Tyler Hudson, of Roann, majoring in environmental

studies.
■ Kennidy Lauer, of North Manchester, majoring in business management.
■ Chloe Leckrone, of North Manchester, majoring in peace studies.
■ Madalyn Lloyd, of Urbana, majoring in environmental studies.
■ Zachary Mangham, of North Manchester, majoring in biology and chemistry.
■ Benjamin Nesler, of North Manchester, majoring in psychology and religious culture.
■ Erica Ortiz, of Servia, majoring in nursing.
■ Dakota Prater, of Liberty Mills, majoring in biology.
■ Alina Reed, of Wabash,

majoring in digital media arts.
■ Erin Russell, of Wabash, majoring in elementary education.
■ Brooklyn Schumm, of North Manchester, majoring in biology.
■ Mackenzie Sheridan, of Wabash, majoring in music.
■ Elaine Shock, of North Manchester, majoring in business management.
■ Angel Wehrly, of Wabash, majoring in marketing.
■ Lesley Zook, of La Fontaine, majoring in business management.
Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FIRST-SEMESTER HONOR ROLLS

Manchester High School has announced its honor rolls for the first semester, according to a press release.

Highest Honor (3.8 – 4.0 GPA)

12th grade: Jackson Austin, Lauren Barrett, Logan Bishop, Gabriel Case, Ridge Fierstos, Jayson Gilbert, Justin Hall, Elise Harter, Kayla Hippensteel, Cade Jones, Elizabeth Kiger, Raice Martin, Alyssa Marvel, Morgan Metzger, Jade Michel, Lacey Pierce, Braxton Ream, Isaac Reichenbach, William Rickerd, Frank Roth, Shaylee Schafer, Hadley Schannep, Kindra Stetzel, Abbie Wampler, Ainsley West and Brady Wiley.
11th grade: Aliala Atienza, Morgan Austin, Kyler Benedict, Nele Bichler, Collin Cummins, Olivia Dale, Rebecca Dingess, Alesha Edwards, Robin Gibin, Kolby Haecker, Riley Hoagland, Micah Kling, Soeren Koerber, Abby Love, Caden Marcum, Hope Martin, Skye McCullough, Lanna Metzger, Luke Metzger, Olivia Neal, Sarah Nulf and Simon zur Nieden.
10th grade: Gracie Batalis, Carleigh Blevins, Leyna Borgmann, Calvin Brown, Breanna Callaway, Janessa Castle, Ella Crawford, Preston Duffy, Han-

nah Eberly, Ava Egolf, Lily Flora, Eryn Fox, Payton Hamby, Jacob Hesting, Carolyn Hoffmeyer, Kaidyn Howard, Melani Jimenez-Saucedo, Payton Jones, Sarah Kerlin, Sophie Leckrone, Evan Martynowicz, Maegan Metzger, Malia Metzger, Aymia Miller, Julia Rosen, Brayden Sanson, Kimberly Schroll, Garrett Sites, Joshua Steely, Miriam Struble-Hedstrom, Alexa Weaver, Sloane Willey, Sophia Willey and Dairish Zintsmaster.
Ninth grade: Gavin Betten, Haley Betten, Addison Brubaker, Ayla Cashdollar, Mary Collett, Brilee Enyeart, Kadence Fox, Luke Gish, Alexis Green, Owen Harshman, Jonathan Hernandez-Alvarez, Abigail King, Kaleb Kline, Evan McLaughlin, Zachary Owens, Tristan Paquera, Citlali Quiroz-Alvarez, Audrey Sanson, Caleb Sautter, Molly Schannep, Connor Trump, Simon Van, Carter Wagoner, Dawson Walker and Wyatt Young.

High Honor (3.5-3.799)
12th grade: Kambree Cashdollar, Keilan Creager, Ethan Cummins, Blake Drasny, Don-dre Eades, Ethan Espeset, Brit-tray Evans, Thomas Fuller,

Sydni Hernandez, Abigail Hest-ing, Avery Howard, Samuel Hupp, Jace Judy, Lydia Kerlin, Josie Kral, Conner Lauer, Dom-inic Lincoln, Makenzy Meyer, Emma Miller, Ella Oliver, Levi Schroll, Gavin Simmers and Jaslynn Wright.
11th grade: Trinity Akins, Miras Baryiev, Josie Briner, Emily Dotson, Madison Gano-El-dridge, Traceson Gearhart, Pey-ton Helton, Delani Henderson, Jasmine Howard, Yousef Ish-aqat, Landon Judy, Julie Moren, Brayden Orr, Michael Ortiz, Laure Papp, Gavin Rockwell, Sebastian Rolan, Kayden Scha-fer, Xavier Sell and Cameron Shull.
10th grade: Isaiah Burlin-game, Olivia Davis, McKelvey Espeset, Savannah Evans, Dylan Hernandez, Kaitlyn Holley, Antonio Jimenez, Mahayla Krom, Sammie Lambert, Gracie Lauer, Zaine Louvier, Jade McCullough, Brady Meredith, Diego Munoz, Riley Shock, Oli-ver Van, Myra Walker and Brian-na Wert.
Ninth grade: Sophia Anglin, Ava Baker, Cale Bennett, Dixie Burrell, Macy Greer, Wynter Har-ris, Kaelynn Kamp, Jordyn Neff, Wyatt Prater, London Spangle, Averi Thomas and Noelle Walt.

Betty Lavon Herron

Sept. 7, 1925 – Jan. 23, 2022



Betty Lavon Her-ron, 96, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 9:00 am, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, at her home. She was born on Sept. 7, 1925, in Loganp-sort, Indiana, to Harry and Minnie (Miller) Smith. Betty married Donald Rob-ert Herron in Logansport, on July 18, 1948; he died May 2, 2011. She was a member of Church of Our Savior United Methodist Church, and after it’s closing, she became a member of the Christ United Meth-odist Church. Betty enjoyed bowling and bowled in sev-eral leagues for 75 years. She also enjoyed shopping, putt-putt golf, the Chicago Cubs, and Indiana Hoosiers basketball. She is survived by six chil-dren, Darlene Isaac, Sharon Herron, Vicky Herron, Dale (Linda) Herron, Jerome (Tina) Herron, and William Herron, all of Wabash, four grandchildren, Sandra (Wil-

liam) Booth, Tony Isaac, Amber Herron, Dexter Herron, six great-grandchildren, Steven Green, Lillie Green, Kadence Her-ron, Dillon Herron, Axille Herron, and Daxon Herron. She was also pre-ceded in death by her par-ents, son, Daniel Herron, sis-ter, Edith Singleton, and step brother, Bermond Smith. Funeral services will be 10:30 am, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at Grandstaff-Hent-gen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wa-bash, with Pastor Nathan Whybrew officiating. Burial will be in Mount Hope Cem-etery, Logansport. Friends may call 9:30 – 10:30 am Thursday, at the funeral home. Preferred memorial is Alzheimer’s and Dementia Foundation. The memorial guest book for Betty may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Barabra G. Highfill

Barabra G. Highfill, 97, of Fort Wayne formerly of LaFontaine, Indiana passed away on Dec. 22, 2021. Funeral Services will be 11 a.m. on Jan. 29, 2022, at McDonald Funeral Homes, 104 South Main Street, La-Fontaine Chapel, LaFon-taine, Indiana 46940. Burial

will follow at LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery in LaFon-taine, Indiana. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service starting at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com

The power of life shines through the darkest night

It was breathtaking to be at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan on the morning of Jan. 18. The Christmas tree was gone from Rockefeller Center, but the church was packed yet again, this time with a strong showing from the NYPD, the new mayor, and other civil leaders. It was the fifth anniversary of the death of Steven McDonald, a police officer, who was shot on the job by a troubled teen. Left paralyzed, he forgave his shooter and even offered him room in his home once he was released from prison. The young man tragically died, but I suspect McDonald prayed for his eternal soul.

Kathryn Lopez



McDonald was a young newlywed at the time he was shot, in 1986. His son, Conor, who spoke powerfully at the end of Mass, never knew him before he was paralyzed. McDonald had to relearn to talk, and needed a ventila-tor to breathe. All this, and he forgave the man who so derailed his life. Now that’s radical love. The full cathedral was silent and reverent during the holy sacrifice of the Mass – so miraculous to those who believe. And toward the end of Mass, people spoke about the most important things. I know we all don’t believe the same things about God and life, and yet there was a rever-ent coming together. I’m not sure I knew that was possible anymore. And yet it is. There was a true, united spirit of humility, awe and gratitude in the air. We marked the anniversary of McDonald’s passing on the same week as the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Annually – with a small representation during COVID and post-Jan. 6 security mea-sures on Capitol Hill last year – pro-life groups from across the country march to the Supreme Court to mark the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that made abortion legal in all three trimesters of pregnancy. Steven McDonald was a shining example of the value of every human life. His perseverance demonstrates what humans are capable of with humble trust that life is always a gift. Remembering his life – and introducing his story to new generations and non-New Yorkers – should

inspire us to defend, protect and love every single person we encounter, whatever they believe, whatever they look like and even whatever they say to us. During this year’s March for Life, a group of abor-tion advocates projected pro-abortion messages on the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception while 5,000 of us were inside praying. Another group planned a counter-demonstration back at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. These are desecrations, but not greater desecrations than what our law has enshrined with a near half century of Roe. At the Mass for McDonald, Cardinal Timothy Dolan said: “After he was shot multiple times and struggled, groaned to breathe, to swallow, to move, to live, he faced the awesome question: Am I going to spend my days groan-ing, bitter, angry, useless, paralyzed? Or will I fight on? And forgive and forge ahead in a life of love and purpose and freedom?” There’s a similar question we face as a nation. Dis-agreeing on a whole host of issues – some of them quite fundamental, like ‘will we defend the helpless unborn or kill them?’ and ‘will we treat the paralyzed or otherwise impaired or elderly like they are useless to us and better off dead?’ – can we actually choose to be decent to one another and hear one another out and live together? Conor McDonald, who fol-lowed in his father’s footsteps and is now a police officer, spoke powerfully about what his father taught him about the reality of evil and our need to stay close to God, who is stronger than Satan. I’m quite certain that every-one in the cathedral was not on the same page. And yet, who could deny that evil has a stronghold in our country today? I don’t think most of us want to dismiss the human-ity of the most vulnerable. Could we start there? To want to help make life possible, at all stages? We must stop yelling at each other. It’s the only way to see our common humanity. Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fel-low at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

EXPLAINER

What’s known about ‘stealth’ version of omicron?

By LAURA UNGAR
AP Science Writer

Scientists and health of-ficials around the world are keeping their eyes on a descendant of the omicron variant that has been found in at least 40 countries, in-cluding the United States. This version of the coro-navirus, which scientists call BA.2, is widely con-sidered stealthier than the original version of omicron because particular genet-ic traits make it somewhat harder to detect. Some sci-entists worry it could also be more contagious. But they say there’s a lot they still don’t know about it, including whether it evades vaccines better or causes more severe disease.

Where has it spread?

Since mid-November, more than three dozen countries have uploaded nearly 15,000 genetic se-quences of BA.2 to GISA-ID, a global platform for sharing coronavirus data. As of Tuesday morning, 96 of those sequenced cases came from the U.S. “Thus far, we haven’t seen it start to gain ground” in the U.S., said Dr. Wes-ley Long, a pathologist at Houston Methodist in Tex-as, which has identified three cases of BA.2. The mutant appears much more common in Asia and Europe. In Denmark, it made up 45 percent of all COVID-19 cases in mid-January, up from 20 percent two weeks earlier, according to Statens Serum Institut, which falls under the Danish Ministry of Health.

What’s known about this version of the virus?

BA.2 has lots of muta-tions. About 20 of them in the spike protein that studs the outside of the virus are shared with the original



A pharmacist holds a COVID-19 vaccine for the omicron variant.

omicron. But it also has additional genetic changes not seen in the initial ver-sion. It’s unclear how signifi-cant those mutations are, especially in a population that has encountered the original omicron, said Dr. Jeremy Luban, a virologist at the University of Massa-chusetts Medical School. For now, the original ver-sion, known as BA.1, and BA.2 are considered sub-sets of omicron. But global health leaders could give it its own Greek letter name if it is deemed a globally significant “variant of con-cern.” The quick spread of BA.2 in some places raises con-cerns it could take off. “We have some indica-tions that it just may be as contagious or perhaps slightly more contagious than (original) omicron since it’s able to compete with it in some areas,” Long said. “But we don’t necessarily know why that is.” An initial analysis by sci-entists in Denmark shows no differences in hospi-talizations for BA.2 com-pared with the original omicron. Scientists there are still looking into this version’s infectiousness and how well current vac-cines work against it. It’s also unclear how well treat-ments will work against it.

Doctors also don’t yet know for sure if some-one who’s already had COVID-19 caused by omi-cron can be sickened again by BA.2. But they’re hope-ful, especially that a prior omicron infection might lessen the severity of dis-ease if someone later con-tracts BA.2. The two versions of omi-cron have enough in com-mon that it’s possible that infection with the origi-nal mutant “will give you cross-protection against BA.2,” said Dr. Daniel Ku-ritzkes, an infectious dis-eases expert at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Scientists will be conduct-ing tests to see if antibodies from an infection with the original omicron “are able to neutralize BA.2 in the laboratory and then extrap-olate from there,” he said.

How concerned are health agencies?

The World Health Orga-nization classifies omicron overall as a variant of con-cern, its most serious des-ignation of a coronavirus mutant, but it doesn’t single out BA.2 with a designation of its own. Given its rise in some countries, however, the agency says investiga-tions of BA.2 “should be prioritized.” The UK Health Security Agency, meanwhile, has

IUK CHANCELLOR’S LIST, DEAN’S LIST HONORS FOR FALL

Seven hundred eighty-three full-time Indiana University Kokomo students earned chancellor’s list or dean’s list honors for the fall 2021 semester, according to a press release.

Chancellor’s list students earned a 4.0 grade point average (GPA), while dean’s list students earned a minimum 3.5 GPA on a scale of 4.0, while carrying at least 12 credit hours throughout the grading period.

Local students, listed by hometown, who were honored included:

La Fontaine: Courtney Michelle Andrick, Homero Lopez Martinez, Leshly Lopez Martinez, Courtlin Isabelle Poe and Kloe Robyn Smith.

Lagro: Aubree Rae Lambert.

North Manchester:

Elizabeth Jones, Taylor Ann Mettler, Trinnity Jo Mitchell, Kenda Marie Mullen, Makenna Jae Norman, Morgan Brianne Owens, McKenzie Carolyn Roth, Jordan James Sisco, Summer Dawn Sisco, Daisy Wren Sparks and Hope Olivia Unger.

DEATHS

From page A1

COVID-19 advisory level up from orange, the second-highest level, to red, the highest.

During last week’s update on Wednesday, Jan. 19, Wabash County remained in the red.

Now, every county in the state is also at the red level as the Omicron variant continues to sweep the state and nation. At the state level, the Omicron variant is now dominant, overtaking Delta. As of Tuesday, Jan. 18, 56.1 percent of tested cases in the state were identified as being Delta, while 43.7 percent of tested cases were identified as being Omicron. However, as of Thursday, Jan. 21, 25.3 percent of tested cases in the state were identified as being Delta, while 74.3 percent of tested cases were identified as being Omicron.

“Unfortunately, COVID-19 is determined to keep us on our toes, and we once again are facing a very bleak situation with this pandemic. Our

COVID-19 hospital census is at the highest level in an entire year,” said state health commissioner Dr. Kris Box, during a televised press conference Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021. “Our healthcare workforce is depleted, physically and mentally, as are our public health workers. Cases are on the rise and we’re seeing a larger proportion of cases in people age 40 and younger compared to this time last year.”

While the struggle to find tests continues all over the country, a program that began last week may help somewhat relieve that burden soon. Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of four free at-home tests from the United States Postal Service (USPS) by visiting <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

There is a limit of one order per residential address. One order includes four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests. The orders will ship free starting in late January.

Also, the Biden administration will begin making 400 million N95 masks available for free to U.S.

residents starting this week, now that federal officials are emphasizing their better protection against the omicron variant of COVID-19 over cloth face coverings, according to the Associated Press.

The White House announced Wednesday, Jan. 20 that the masks will come from the government’s Strategic National Stockpile, which has more than 750 million of the highly protective masks on hand. The masks will be available for pickup at pharmacies and community health centers across the country. They will begin shipping this week for distribution starting late next week, the White House said.

This will be the largest distribution of free masks by the federal government to the public since the COVID-19 pandemic began. In early 2020, then-President Donald Trump’s administration considered and then shelved plans to send masks to people at their homes. President Joe Biden embraced the initiative after facing mounting

criticism this month over the inaccessibility – both in supply and cost – of N95 masks as the highly transmissible omicron variant swept across the country.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, the ISDH announced it had extended its COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway through Feb. 26 and has revised the hours of operation.

The clinic is being held in the INDYCAR parking lot at 4551 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, across from Gate 2. It offers the Pfizer pediatric and adult vaccines, as well as the Moderna vaccine. Both primary vaccines and booster doses are available.

“Due to a national shortage of rapid tests, individuals seeking testing at IMS should be prepared to receive a PCR test,” stated the ISDH.

If rapid tests are available, they will be available only to individuals age 18 and younger and symptomatic individuals age 50 and older.

Vaccinations and testing are being offered from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesdays

and Thursdays; and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

“Appointments are strongly recommended, but walk-ins will be accepted while capacity permits,” stated the ISDH.

COVID-19 vaccines are available to Hoosiers age 5 and older, and boosters are approved for eligible individuals age 12 and older. Hoosiers can make a vaccination appointment for the IMS site at www.ourshot.in.gov by searching for ZIP code 46222. Individuals under age 18 can only receive the Pfizer vaccine. Parents seeking pediatric doses for children ages 5 to 11 should verify that birthdates are entered correctly when registering to ensure that a Pfizer pediatric dose is available.

To pre-register for a COVID-19 test at the site, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the testing link at the top of the page, then search for the 46222 ZIP code.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

IVY TECH FORT WAYNE, WARSAW FALL 2021 DEAN’S LIST

Ivy Tech Community College has announced the fall 2021 Dean’s List for the Fort Wayne campus and Warsaw site, according to a press release.

The Dean’s List, prepared and published each term, gives recognition to degree-seeking students, achieve a minimum 3.50 grade point average in non-academic skills advancement courses with no Ds or Fs, earn six or more Ivy Tech credits during the semester and have earned at least 12 non-ASA credits (Academic Skills Advancement) during their course of study.

Area students who were named to the fall 2021 Dean’s List at the Fort Wayne campus included:

- Winter Ward, of La Fontaine.
- Jacob Parker, of Lagro.
- Angela Satterthwaite, of Lagro.
- Nichole Walls, of Liberty Mills.
- Heather Enyeart, of North Manchester.
- Kyle Grizzle, of North Manchester.
- Deborah Marcum, of North Manchester.
- Skyler Michel, of North Manchester.
- Graciela Reed, of North Manchester.
- Tonna Yoder, of Urbana.
- Kaci Donaldson, of Wabash.
- Dustin Hamilton, of Wabash.
- Jennifer Harry, of Wabash.
- Ruth Niccum, of Wabash.
- Brylee Proctor, of Wabash.
- Macie Sears, of Wabash.
- Arthur Wischman, of Wabash.

BAILEY

From page A1

49, and Bailey were fired upon. Rittmanic and Bailey sustained serious injuries after being struck by gunfire and were transported to area hospitals for treatment. Rittmanic later succumbed to her injuries. Bailey remains in critical condition at the hospital. ISP Zone 3 Agents obtained Kankakee County arrest warrants for Sullivan and Harris concerning this incident.

Rittmanic was laid to rest Friday, Jan. 7.

“Twenty-three days ago, our community lost Sergeant Marlene Rittmanic. It feels like months have passed since that night in December, but it has been just twenty-three days. Over that time, we have watched an immense outpouring of love and kindness during her procession, the services, and when she was laid to rest. She was a true hero, and we miss her dearly. The entire community rallied together to show their unconditional support for her, and we could not have been more proud of the legacy she left for us,” said Bailey’s family. “Twenty-three days ago, we also got the heart-wrenching call that Tyler was involved in this senseless shooting and poised ourselves to hear that we may never see him again. In the short period since that night, we have given one release regarding Tyler’s condition, delivered by Deputy Chief Anderson during an emotional press conference. At that time, we thanked everyone who was involved in saving Tyler’s life that night, and we continue to be grateful to all of those officers, first responders, doctors, nurses and medical personnel that make it possible for our family to release a second update on Tyler and his progress over this short period. We continue to be thankful for the respect and privacy everyone has allowed us to have during this time. It has made the journey much easier on Tyler’s family, and we appreciate everyone’s continued display of kindness in that respect.”

Bailey’s family said over the past few weeks they had “witnessed firsthand a community come together in support of their police officers by flying flags, tying blue ribbons on their trees and turning their front porches blue each night to show their support.”

“We pray that the community continues to show the same level of compassion to all of our police officers. Despite experiencing firsthand, the dangers they face simply doing their job, our local police officers continue to serve us every day, risking their lives for ours every time they put

on the badge,” said Bailey’s family. “We are humbled by the number of events that have occurred already and those that are scheduled to happen over the next few months to support not only Tyler but his wife Sydney as well. She has been able to stay at Tyler’s side this entire time, holding his hand so that he always feels her touch, talking to him so that he hears a voice he knows and loves. This would not be possible without the support and generosity of everyone involved.”

Bailey’s family said in the days following the incident, they “stood by simply praying Tyler would survive.”

“During the following three weeks, we have watched Tyler give everything he has to fight for his life. We thank God every day that Tyler is strong and is able to push back against these injuries. He has displayed small improvements on almost a daily basis and has reached real milestones in his recovery over this short time. Earlier this week, after almost three weeks in the intensive care unit, Tyler was strong enough to be released from the ICU to standard hospital care. He is no longer in critical condition, he is stable, and he is getting ready to start the next chapter of his recovery. It appears likely that Tyler will soon be released from the hospital to begin his next phase of treatment. While there remains a long road ahead for Tyler in his recovery, it’s an incredible feeling to be able to share this information with the community that has been with us every step of the way,” said Bailey’s family. “We will do our best to keep the community updated with Tyler’s future progress as he heals. We are eternally grateful for the support Tyler and Sydney have received in these short twenty-three days. We are so proud of Tyler and his courageous fight. We wish Marlene was here to see it as well, but we know she is watching out for Tyler from above.”

Kankakee County, Illinois State’s Attorney Jim Rowe submitted an official request to the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois and to the U.S. Attorney General to review the first-degree murder cases pending against Darius D. Sullivan, 26, of Bourbonnais, Illinois, and Xandria A. Harris, 26, of Bradley, Illinois, for federal murder charges, and to pursue a federal sentence of death against both defendants. Additionally, the State’s Attorney’s Office has also filed state charges against Sullivan and Harris for the first-degree murder of a police officer and attempted first-degree murder of a police officer, among other charges. The state charges will proceed in the Kanka-

kee County Courthouse and Rowe will seek life sentences for both offenders. At around 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Harris, accompanied by her attorney, turned herself in at the Bradley Police Department and was taken into custody by the Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 3 Investigators, according to the Illinois State Police. Harris will remain in custody and will be held at the Jerome D. Combs Adult Detention Facility in Kankakee, Illinois. Harris faces three counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted first-degree murder. The state’s petition to deny bail to the defendant was granted by the court on Monday, Jan. 3, and Harris remains in the custody of the Kankakee County Sheriff’s Department without bond.

Darius Sullivan was arrested early Friday, Dec. 31 at a residence in North Manchester. Arrangements are being made for him to be extradited from Indiana to Kankakee County at this time. Darius Sullivan is charged with six counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted first-degree murder and one charge of aggravated battery with a firearm. Darius Sullivan remains in the custody of Indiana law enforcement, where, on Monday, Jan. 3, he refused to waive extradition to Illinois.

Rowe said there is recent precedent for the United States pursuing the death penalty for the murder of a law enforcement officer, citing the case U.S. v. Stephen Wiggins, Middle District of Tennessee in 2018; and precedent for pursuing a federal sentence of death in non-death penalty states, citing the case U.S. v. Brent Christensen, Central District of Illinois in 2018.

Rowe said during the investigation were Darius Sullivan’s mother, Nichele Newton-Carroll, and his brother, Jalmen Sullivan, were also arrested. Allegations against these individuals include obstruction of justice for making false statements to law enforcement and harboring a fugitive to aid in his escape, respectively. Newton-Carroll is alleged to have made false statements to law enforcement during an interview that occurred in Demotte, which ultimately places the jurisdiction for those charges in the hands of the Newton County, prosecutor’s office. Rowe said he has been in contact with the Newton County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and has requested that they file all applicable charges and prosecute Newton-Carroll “to the fullest extent of the law.” Rowe said Jalmen Sullivan allegedly transported his brother, Darius Sullivan, from Kankakee County, Illinois to Wabash “to aid Darius in escaping jus-

tice.”

On Friday, Jan. 14, Illinois State Police Southern Region Public Information Office Trooper Josh Korando referred all future questions about the potential prosecution of Jalmen Sullivan to Wabash County authorities.

“No other information on this case is being released by Zone 3 at this time,” said Korando.

Also, on Friday, Jan. 14, Wabash County Prosecutor William C. Hartley, Jr. said he could not publicly discuss his office’s pending decision as to whether or not to charge Jalmen Sullivan locally.

As of Tuesday, Jan. 25, neither Jalmen nor Darius Sullivan had yet been charged in Wabash County.

Rowe did not respond to a Plain Dealer request for further comment on this case as of press time.

During a press conference on the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 31 at the North Manchester Police Department, Indiana State Police Lowell District public information officer Sgt. Glen Fifield was joined by Sgt. Travis Heishman with Fulton County Sheriff’s Department, Fulton County Sheriff Chris Sailors and Wabash County Sheriff Ryan Baker.

Fifield said at around 3:30 a.m. Friday, Dec.

31, the Fulton County Sheriff’s Department initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling the wrong way on a one-way road in Rochester. As a result of that traffic stop that was initiated, a pursuit took place which ended off Mitchell Drive at the seawall. They fled on foot but were shortly

apprehended, police said in a probable cause affidavit. Two individuals – Bryce J. Baker, 20, and Joshua J. Adams, 26, both from Kankakee, Illinois – were taken into custody without incident. Those two individuals were charged with possession of stolen property, resisting law enforcement and possession of a handgun with no license. Police said they found a bag of marijuana and a handgun in a towel that Baker told them he pitched into the lake. The two are charged with carrying a handgun without a license, theft of a firearm, possession of marijuana and resisting law enforcement. Adams’ resisting charge is a felony because he was the alleged driver and used a vehicle to resist. On Tuesday, Jan. 4, Baker and Adams appeared before Fulton Circuit Court Judge Christopher Lee for their initial hearings. Lee set both men’s bonds at \$75,000 surety, approved public defense attorneys for the suspects and set future court dates. They are both set to appear for a pretrial conference at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 14 and their trial date is now set for June 7.

At approximately 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31, officers with the U.S. Marshall’s Great Lakes Fugitive Task Force requested the assistance of the Indiana State Police SWAT to serve a search warrant on a residence located in the 1000 block of North Bond Street in North Manchester. During the execution of that warrant, two individuals were taken into custody. One of the individuals, Darius Sullivan, had active warrants for first-degree murder, attempted murder and

aggravated battery with a firearm. These charges stemmed from the murder of Rittmanic and the injuries to Bailey. Also arrested at the residence was Daniel Acros, 19, from Kankakee, Illinois. He was preliminarily charged with weapon and narcotics charges in Wabash County as a result of the search warrant.

Assisting at the scene were the Fulton County Sheriffs Department, Wabash County Sheriffs Department, Kosciusko County Sheriffs Department, Warsaw Police Department, North Manchester Police Department, Akron Police Department, North Manchester Fire Department, Manchester University Security, Lutheran EMS and the Wabash Fire Department.

Fifield said Manchester University was locked down during the search warrant.

Rowe said the investigation into this matter continues “to ensure that all who aided or abetted these individuals are caught and brought to justice.”

“The public is reminded that criminal charges are not evidence of guilt and that all individuals are presumed innocent until and unless they are found guilty in a court of law,” said Rowe.

Rowe said anyone with information related to the ongoing investigation and prosecution of the above offenders is asked to call the Illinois State Police Hotline at 815-698-2315.

No further information was available as of press time. This story will be updated as more information is released.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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PULSE

From page A1

for Indiana Secretary of State will be visiting Wabash later this month. Desteny Wells will be the guest speaker at the Wabash County Democratic Party’s monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27 at Wings Etc., 1439 N. Cass St., in the events room. The meeting will be held both in-person and via Zoom for party members.

‘Bite in the 85’ dining program launches

Visit Wabash County’s “Bite in the 85” will take place through Monday, Jan. 31. The participating restaurants will have the opportunity to offer their specials and deals to the public, including 50 East Garden Center and Café, 950 Speakeasy Bistro, Eugenia’s Restaurant, Harry’s Old Kettle Pub & Grill, Market Street Grill, Modoc’s Market, Pizza King and Twenty. The public will have the opportunity to win gift cards to the participating restaurants and five winners will receive a \$100 gift card. Entries will be collected by filling out a short online form that will be accessible by a QR code on all “Bite in the 85” menus at the participating restaurants. For more information, visit VisitWabashCounty.com/bite-in-the-85.

Wabash First Friday micro-events in February, March are on sale now

Downtown Wabash First Fridays are set to return in 2022. Tickets are on sale now for two micro-events in February and March. February’s First Friday includes a painting workshop with local artist Danielle Winger. March’s First Friday will debut a brand new 21-and-over event. February’s First Friday will offer a brand new

micro-event: Creative Canvas Workshop with instructor Danielle Winger. Creative Canvas Workshop on Friday, Feb. 4 is \$40 per person from 6 to 8 p.m. at Make It Your Own Art Studio, 24 W. Canal St., at the alley entrance. Spaces are limited. Tickets may be purchased online by visiting WabashMarketplace.org/store/p48/canvas. March’s First Friday will offer a brand new micro-event: Downtown Wabash Leprechaun-Con Bar Crawl with green beers, lucky cocktails and more. Bar-crawlers will start at the downtown Wabash office at 5 p.m. Friday, March 4, with their Leprechaun-Con T-shirt, a green key lime beer from 2Toms Brewing Co. and a bar crawl map. The Leprechaun-Con Bar Crawl tee, complimentary beer and bar crawl map are \$30 per person. To pre-order your T-shirt, visit WabashMarketplace.org/store/p49/bar-crawl.

Taste of Love Trolley No. 85 Tour on sale

Visit Wabash County has announced that tickets for the Taste of Love Trolley No. 85 Tour are now on sale. The tour will take place on Saturday, Feb. 5, is \$50 per person and will begin at the Visit Wabash County Welcome Center in downtown Wabash with a champagne toast. The progressive dinner stops include 950 Speakeasy Bistro, Eagles Ballroom and Gallery 64. This is a tour for those ages 21 and up and there will be average walking required. Payment is due upon registration. To purchase tickets online, visit www.visitwabashcounty.com/trolley-tours, visit 221 S. Miami St. or call 260-563-7171.

Wabash Tri-Kappa to hold annual Winter Gala

Wabash Tri-Kappa’s annual Winter Gala fundraiser is set to be held Saturday,

Feb. 5 at Heartland REMC, 350 Wedcor Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The evening will consist of dinner, catered by Heather Chenault, “a fun, fabulous and very entertaining” dessert auction by Chad Metzger, from Metzger Auction Services and dancing to tunes spun by “Smitty.” A cash bar is also available throughout the evening. The cost for tickets is \$35 a person, and are available from any Tri Kappa member or at Wabash City Hall through Friday, Jan. 28. All profit will go toward scholarships for students from Northfield, Southwood and Wabash high schools and to local charities. For more information, call 765-661-8206.

Salamonie Forest Preschool underway

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool through May for one Tuesday a month or two Tuesdays a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area. Classes for the once-a-month option will be held Tuesdays including Feb. 1, March 1, April 12 and May 3. Classes for the second meeting time each month will also be held Tuesdays including Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15, April 26 and May 17. Advance registration is required. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Salamonie ‘Twens Among the Trees’ Forest School underway

Children ages 6 to 13 are invited to Salamonie Forest School at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The class will be offered one Wednes-

day a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, Andrews. Classes will be held on Wednesdays: Feb. 2, March 2 and April 20. Advance registration is required. Limited space is available. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Manchester exhibit honors indigenous identity

Link Gallery at Manchester University offers art pieces by North Manchester resident Briana “Bri” Floor in “Indigi-Flections: Reflections on an Indigenous Identity.” The exhibit continues through Feb. 4. Link Gallery is in Winger Hall on East Street in North Manchester. The public is welcome, and masks are required inside MU buildings.

Miami County Junior Achievement announces new fundraising event

Junior Achievement serving Miami County has announced their first-ever euchar championship on Feb. 19 at the Peru Moose Lodge 110 N. Broadway, Peru. The organization is looking for event sponsors, table sponsors and teams to enter into the game. Event sponsors are \$300 and include four teams of two players each. Table sponsors are \$100, teams of two are \$50 and a single registration is \$25. Junior Achievement serving Miami County provides classes in Peru Community Schools, North Miami Schools and Maconaquah Schools reaching approximately 725 students. To register, visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mcgo/> or send an order form and check to Junior Achievement serving Miami County, P.O. Box 1344,

Peru, IN 46970. For more information, email Courtney Ozminkowski at Courtney.Ozminkowski@FFBT.com or call Miller at 574-551-4698 or email Beth.Miller@ja.org.

WHS graduates encouraged to apply for the Lucille Camp scholarship

Wabash High School (WHS) has announced that they are preparing to award scholarship funds that have been endowed by the Lucille Camp Scholarship Foundation. To be eligible to receive funds from the Lucille Camp Scholarship Trust, applicants must be either a 2022 graduate of WHS or a student who graduated from WHS within the last three years, in either 2019, 2020 or 2021. Students must have not previously received grants from the trust for more than three academic years. Eligible students may not be related by blood or marriage, within a third degree of consanguinity, to an officer, director, employee or agent of the trustee, which is GBC Bank, who is actively involved in the administration of the trust or the management of its assets. Applications are available in the Guidance Office at WHS or on the Wabash City Schools (WCS) website at <https://www.apaches.k12.in.us/> under High School Scholarships. Completed applications are due to the WHS Guidance Office by Friday, March 4. For more information, call 260-563-4131.

Metro North and Southwood to hold kindergarten round-ups

Kindergarten round-ups have been announced for Southwood and Metro North elementary schools and MSD is ready to welcome the Class of 2035. Children who will be at least

5 years of age on or before Aug. 1, are eligible to participate in kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. This year’s MSD kindergarten round-ups will take place on Wednesday, March 9 at Southwood Elementary School, 840 E. Indiana 124, and Thursday, March 10 at Metro North Elementary School, 3844 W. 200 North. Families are “highly encouraged” to register for the kindergarten round-up no later than Monday, March 7. To accommodate social distancing, families will be assigned an arrival time based on their availability. Guests should be limited to only one or two adult guardians with the child. Guardians should bring a copy of the child’s official birth certificate and vaccination records with them. For younger students, it’s also time to begin enrollment for the 2022-2023 Little Norse and Little Knights Preschool programs. Children who will be either ages 3 or 4 by Aug. 1 are eligible to enroll. Preschool tuition is around \$17 per day, but financial assistance is also available for qualifying families through the CCDF and On My Way PreK programs. Students will attend classes from Monday through Friday for either a half or full-day, and follow the regular MSD school year calendar. For more information, visit www.msdlw.org or contact Southwood Elementary School Principal Phil Boone by phone at 260-563-8050 or by email boonepr@msdlw.k12.in.us; or Metro North Elementary Principal Janette Moore by phone at 260-563-8050 or by email at moorej@msdlw.k12.in.us.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

TANKER

From page A1

based on factors related to mission, infrastructure capacity, community support, environmental considerations and cost.”

The decision marks the second time the local base has missed out on being selected as a home for the KC-46.

Grissom ARB, located in Miami County, was among six candidate bases for future Reserve-led operations of the new KC-46A aerial refueling and strategic military transport aircraft. A total of 12 KC-46As will replace the KC-135 Stratotankers at the selected location. The designation would have added 190 new jobs to Grissom, bringing total personnel servicing the 434th Air Refueling Wing to 112 officers, 555 enlisted and 34 civilians.

Grissom, a release from the base said, was selected as a “reasonable alternative,” along with Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

The final basing selection will be made in fall 2023 allowing environmental studies to be completed at both the preferred locations, as well as the reasonable alternative locations, that release said.

“We put our best foot forward and had a very strong and competitive package,” Col. Thom Pemberton, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander at Grissom, said in the release. “The support we received from

the community and our elected officials, was and continues to be tremendous.”

Local officials, for months, had been making the case to bring the new tanker which will one day replace the KC-135, the planes that currently fly out of March, Grissom and other Air Reserve bases around the country.

Jim Tidd, executive director of the Miami County Economic Development Authority first told county officials in May 2021 that the Air Force was looking to make another round of “basing decisions” for the new plane.

That prompted letters of support from Peru city officials as well as county officials to Air Force officials.

In May 2021, U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski along with U.S. Sens. Todd Young and Mike Braun and other members of the Indiana congressional delegation sent a letter to Acting Secretary of the Air Force John Roth, urging the Air Force to consider the local base as the fifth Main Operating Base for the new KC-46A Pegasus aerial refueling and strategic military transport aircraft.

“The members highlighted the many advantages Grissom would offer as a base for KC-46A aircraft, including its history of

operations and maintenance excellence, strategic location, capacity to support additional aircraft, strong local and state partnerships, and exceptional employment and educational opportunities in the surrounding community for military families and Reserve Airmen,” a news release from Walorski’s office said.

In June 2021, the Wabash City Council became the latest governmental body to take up the issue, as it added an open letter to its agenda for their regular meeting addressed to Roth.

“As leaders in the region, we feel that Grissom’s unique defense assets alongside the region’s robust quality of life offerings make Grissom ARB the best choice for basing the new tanker,” stated the letter. “Our region is proud to serve as home to Grissom ARB and the servicemembers who lend the base its prestige.”

According to the letter, the “talented members” of the 434th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) at Grissom have acquired “several accolades in recognition of their diligence and success,” such as the Air Force Reserve Command Maintenance Effectiveness Award and six Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. Central to the success of the Air Force, Navy, Ma-

rine Corps and allied nations, the 434th ARW has engaged in U.S. military efforts, including Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“While we know the success of Grissom ARB is a large component of the decision-making process, we also understand the importance of choosing a location which offers a high quality of life for active-duty service members and their families,” stated the letter. “Therefore, we have taken inventory the many opportunities and advantages that our region has to offer. From housing, childcare, utility infrastructure, economic development and education, our community is well-suited to embrace this project. Complemented by our close proximity to Indianapolis, South Bend, Fort Wayne and Lafayette, the opportunities and advantages we can provide highly beneficial to those individuals and families based at KC-46A MOB 5.”

Also in June, Gov. Eric Holcomb, along with Walorski met with U.S. Air

Force Lt. Gen. Richard W. Scobee, Chief of Air Force Reserve, in Washington, D.C., to discuss the move.

Tidd, on Tuesday, called the recent announcement “disappointing” and said he worried that the rationale used to select the California base may have been short-sighted in terms of cost savings over basing the planes locally.

Pemberton said the base will continue to be home to KC-135 and will try again in future to be selected as home to the KC-46.

“Grissom has long been known as the gold standard in KC-135R operations, and we will continue to be. We maintain and fly them better than anyone,” he said in the release. “I truly believe that Grissom will be home to a new refueling aircraft eventually, but this just wasn’t our time. The KC-46 is the future of refueling, it is an outstanding aircraft with tremendous capabilities.”

Jared Keever, Peru Tribune editor, may be reached by email at jkeever@perutribune.com. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PLUNGE

From page A1

the link to your fundraising page and collecting cash and checks from people in your community. Friends don’t let friends plunge alone. Ask your friends, family and co-workers to get involved.

Step 3: Take the plunge on Feb. 19. Bring your pledge form and/or a copy of your online pledges to your Polar Plunge event. Turn in all offline donations, sign your waiver, and prepare to get cold.

Plungers must be at least 12 years old by the day of the event to enter the water. Those younger than 18 must have a signature from a parent or guardian.

If you have questions about the event at Manchester, contact Gower at KNGower@manchester.edu.

Organizers advise wearing old gym shoes you don’t mind getting wet. Participants should bring a pair of dry shoes, a towel or robe and a change of clothes.

Some plungers wear costumes over bathing suits.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

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Web browsing prompts feelings of inadequacy

DEAR ABBY: I'm a lesbian. My girlfriend and I have been together for a couple of months now. We fell in love quickly and we're getting ready to move in together. I'm really excited about it, but an "incident" happened recently while we were spending time together.

We were watching TV, and I noticed she was on a website looking at women wearing bikinis. At first I thought, "Are you serious? Right in front of me?" So I looked over and asked her about it. She looked back at me and said, "What?" It made me feel incredibly insecure.

I know she loves me, but she doesn't understand how hurt I was seeing that. It made me feel like I'm not enough. What should I tell her? Should I break up with her? Or am I wrong to feel this way? — Torn In South Carolina

DEAR TORN: Your relationship is new. Looking at pictures of people dressed in swimming attire is hardly indicative of a porn addiction or a hint that you are not "enough."

Before you two move in together, you both need to talk this through, and you ABSOLUTELY need to learn to deal with your feelings of insecurity because, if you don't, they could eventually drive away any of your love interests. Please, get to know each other for a longer period before taking your relationship to the next level by moving in.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 44 and divorced. I have no kids and I live with my parents. I didn't finish college but I do have a job in my field of study. I'm happy in my job, have some friends and am content to not date anyone ever again. However, I feel like I'm a failure.

I'd be embarrassed to go to a school reunion and have to tell my former classmates about my pathetic life. I was always the ambitious one in my circle of friends. I was the one who was going to make something of myself and have an amazing career, a husband and kids. My parents are disabled, and it does help that I live with them. I pay rent/utilities and for my own groceries.

How can I convince myself that I haven't made a complete mess of my life and that my circumstances don't mean my life has been wasted? — Self-Conscious In Arizona

DEAR SELF-CONSCIOUS: While you may not have achieved the lofty goals you set for yourself when you were younger, you are being awfully hard on yourself by calling yourself a "failure." You have a job you love, in the field in which you want to work, and good friends. (In order to have friends, you have to be one.)

I assume the reason you are content to no longer date is past relationships didn't work out. If I'm right, that makes you a member of a very large club. Please try to remain open-minded, because one day you may meet someone you can care about and who will appreciate the value in you. And caring for your disabled parents is a heavy responsibility, and needs to take priority over a social life.

A way to counteract these self-defeating, negative feelings would be to concentrate every day on those things you HAVE accomplished, rather than what you perceive to be your shortcomings, instead of comparing yourself to others.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

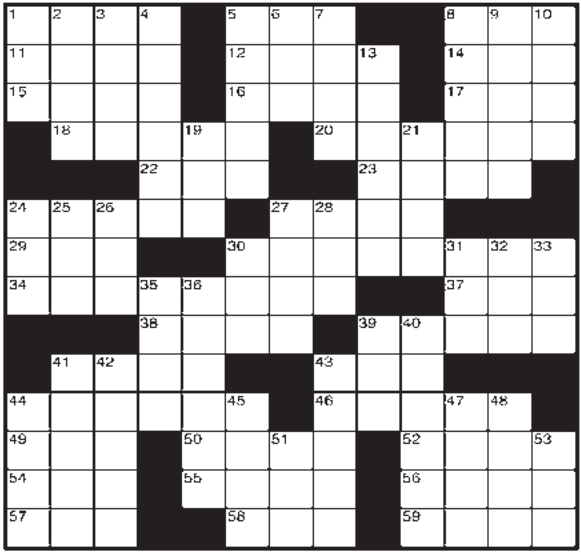
- 1 Fine sediment
- 5 Hot tub
- 8 Pointed tool
- 11 Medicinal plant
- 12 Unmannered one
- 14 Mauna —
- 15 Bellow
- 16 Water pitcher
- 17 Taro dish
- 18 Leafy lunch
- 20 Froth
- 22 Bradley and Sneed
- 23 Large African lake
- 24 Cabinet parts
- 27 Former Mets ballpark
- 29 Plunder
- 30 Downcast
- 34 Tibia
- 37 Bikini half
- 38 Bullpen stats
- 39 Navigates
- 41 Catastrophic
- 43 Opposite of post-

DOWN

- 1 Utter
- 2 Cousteau's islands
- 3 "Damn Yankees" vamp
- 4 Bank employee
- 5 Enjoys a snowy slope
- 6 "Bam!"
- 7 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author
- 8 Head dog
- 9 Solicited
- 10 Refuge
- 13 Shipping inquiry
- 19 Commercial
- 21 Easier said — done
- 24 JAMA readers
- 25 Cry of wonder
- 26 Sapporo sash
- 27 Male offspring
- 28 Tint
- 30 Big extinct bird
- 31 Crime-fighting org.
- 32 Web addr.
- 33 Refrain syllables
- 35 Caiigula's nephew
- 36 Starr or Vaccaro
- 39 Mexican Mrs.
- 40 TV antenna
- 41 Talk out of
- 42 Sketch
- 43 Bother-some
- 44 Grease job
- 45 Arizona city
- 47 Sole
- 48 Hearty laughs
- 51 — mot
- 53 Warmed the bench

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	R	A	M	A	R	M	P	E	A	S	
Y	I	U	M	A	T	A	O	H	O	R	N
E	M	M	A	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A
P	O	O	H	S	E	E	S	A	G		
				R	A	V	E	L	E	D	
A	H	A	H	I	S	S	I	V	E	S	
B	A	L	S	A	M		L	A	R	A	
E	L	M	O			M	A	L	I	G	N
T	I	E	A	L	S	P	A	S	I	L	O
				O	B	E	L	I	S	K	
Y	I	E	P	T	R	A		N	O	U	N
V	A	L	I	D	A	T	E		A	T	O
E	V	E	S		P	E	T		L	A	D
S	E	A	M		E	S	C		A	H	E



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

2			1	9	3		4	
8			5				2	3
	3	1		8		5		
6		4	3	2				
7				6				4
				7	4	6		2
		3		5		2	6	
5	2				9			7
	8		6	3	2			1

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION												
3	6	9	5	8	4	1	7	2				
8	2	1	7	3	9	4	6	5				
7	5	4	1	6	2	8	9	3				
9	4	3	8	7	5	6	2	1				
1	8	2	6	4	3	7	5	9				
5	7	6	9	2	1	3	8	4				
4	1	7	2	9	8	5	3	6				
2	3	8	4	5	6	9	1	7				
6	9	5	3	1	7	2	4	8				

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WHSIS

ODMME

RZLDIA

EGRALR

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Answer here:

Saturday's

Jumbles: PINCH BLAND GLANCE LAVISH
Answer: The book the sorcerer used to learn magic and new incantations was — SPELLBINDING

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

You don't flip them more than once, do you? Are the coals not enough?

Um, I think so.

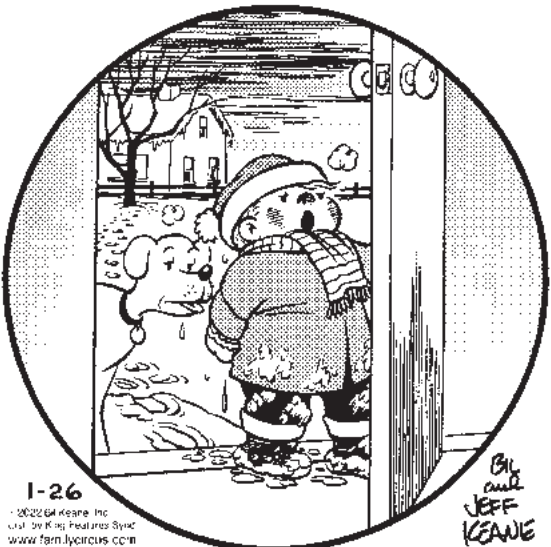
His mother-in-law had questions about his outdoor cooking techniques, so she ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

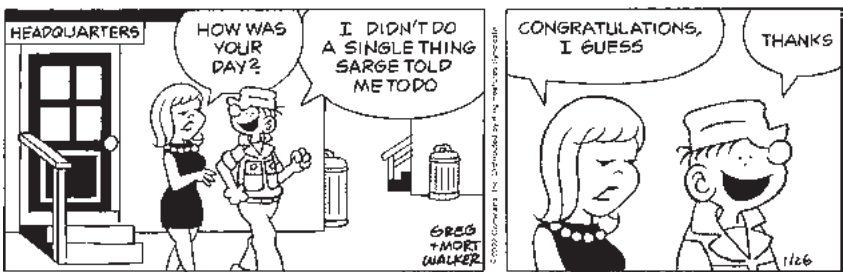
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

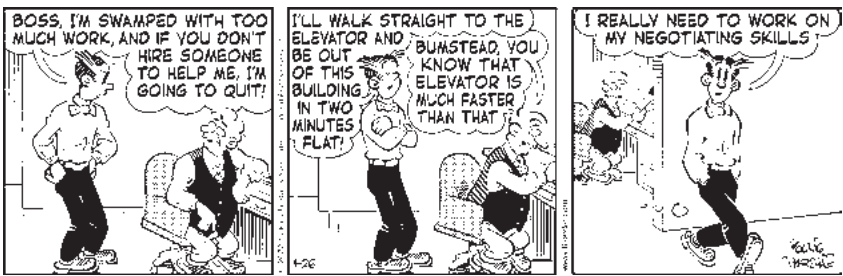


"Barfy's cold and wants us to come in."

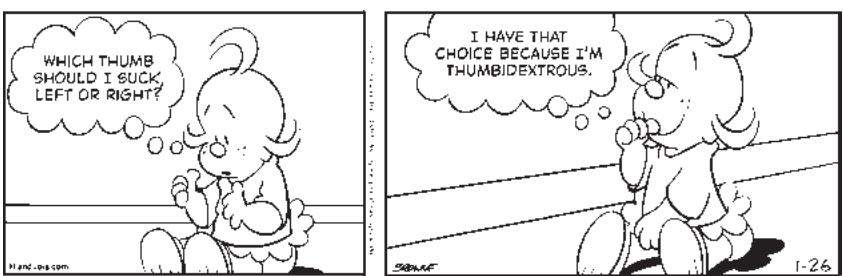
BEETLE BAILEY



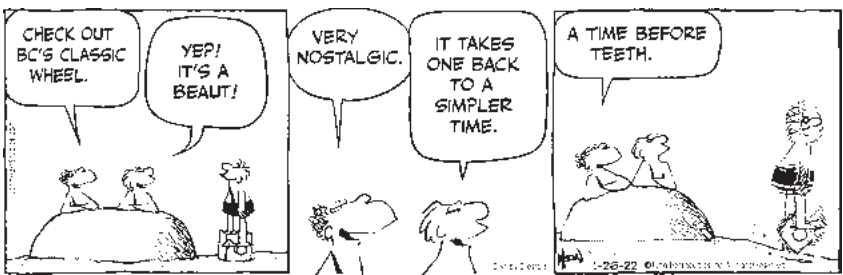
BLONDIE



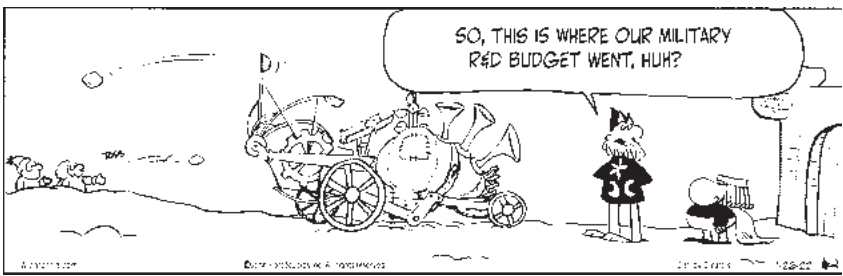
HI & LOIS



BC



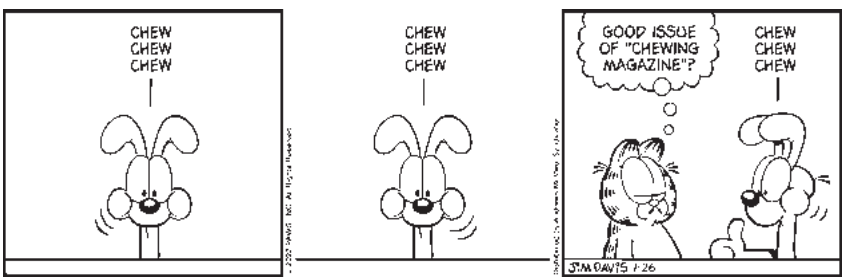
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Planning and worrying are two different things

Q: Does the saying in the Bible about not worrying about tomorrow mean that we shouldn't plan for the future? This confuses me as a college student who wants to be responsible to make good decisions in life. — P.F.

A: As human beings, we should all be wise in planning for life like getting a good education, preparing for marriage and a family, etc. In fact, Jesus commended the wise man who builds his house upon the rock instead of the sand (Matthew 7:24-26). He also asked the question, "For which of you, intending to build a [building], does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it?" (Luke 14:28).

Billy Graham My Answer



One of the dangers in taking advice is taking it out of context. The psalmist reminds us, "The entirety of Your word is truth" (Psalm 119:160). Planning and worrying are two different things. When we worry, we are not trusting God for our futures, but the Bible does teach the importance of preparation.

The Bible does not look down on preparation, but the most important preparation we can make in this

life is to prepare for the next life — eternity. Where will you spend it? There are only two choices — Heaven or Hell. There is nothing in between. Do not wait until death approaches because no one knows what a day may bring. Today you can prepare for your future life. What a magnificent thought, and Jesus Christ has paid the cost. Do not delay. Prepare to meet thy God, for He says, "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"DR PRRO GSAR THPOPREE, GSAR BSGFJEEHSP, GSAR VSZ, GSAR WJMIKXRA. H ORNHPhXRWZ DJPX XS BSPXAHCMXR XS XKJX." — RWWRP ORIRPRARE

Previous Solution: "Kids shouldn't see all the violence they do these days. But the industry just doesn't care." — Linda Blair

TODAY'S CLUE: B s s m b e c

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

Biden needs to fix his presidency not for legacy, but for the sake of a desperate nation

Joe Biden entered the White House a year ago carrying Americans’ hopes that he would restore the nation’s confidence in itself and in its commander in chief after four years of Donald Trump’s ineptness and dishonesty. But Biden in his first year as president has proved to be agonizingly ineffective. Biden’s signature piece of legislation, the \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better plan, remains on the shelf after the president failed to secure enough votes for it in the Democratic-controlled Senate. The same failure has now beset voting rights legislation, despite Biden’s assertion last week that those who oppose the bills were siding with racists and traitors. A president who can’t gain approval of cornerstone legislation that he passionately lobbied for – especially when his own party controls the House and Senate – is in danger of being written off as weak and ineffectual by both Washington insiders and the American public. Not surprisingly, Biden’s average approval rating is a meager 42 percent. After a solid career in the Senate

and eight years as vice president, Biden seemed to have the experience and temperament needed to clean up the enormous messes that Trump left in his wake. But from a botched withdrawal from Afghanistan to mismanagement of the chaos at the U.S.-Mexico border, the president and his team have stumbled through a stunning number of missteps. That includes the administration’s handling of the lingering pandemic, with Americans still struggling to secure enough COVID-19 tests and N95 masks. This week, the Biden team finally moved forward with distributing both masks and tests to a desperate public. And let’s not even talk about the confusing messages coming from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These are not mere partisan concerns. A PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist poll last month found that only 29 percent of independent voters approve of how Biden is handling his job. Our purpose here is not to pile on a beleaguered president. It is, rather, to implore Biden and his team to reflect honestly on their failures and to make the changes needed in tactics, communication and personnel. The nation needs an effective commander in chief as threats from China and Russia increase, as inflation erodes Americans’ ability to pay their bills, as the pandemic continues to kill an average of about 1,700 people in the USA each day, and as the effects of climate change terrorize citizens from Florida to California. Biden can start to record more wins than losses by following the successful track he navigated with the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill in November. That bill, which gained bipartisan support in the House and Senate, shows that Democrats and Republicans can work together when the White House and congressional leaders take a more incremental approach to addressing the nation’s problems. With three years remaining in his term, Joe Biden must act urgently to fix his faltering presidency. He must do so not for the sake of his legacy or his party, but for the sake of a nation struggling beneath the weight of challenges that appear even more dire now than a year ago. *This editorial was first published in USA Today.*

LETTERS

A national shame hiding in plain sight

In well-appointed homes, on farms, in factories and in restaurants in the U.S., thousands of people, even children, work long days cleaning homes, picking crops, making products, and washing dishes, busing tables and serving customers. They toil for little or no pay for heartless employers unconcerned for their safety or health and, in some cases, ready to use threats or worse to keep them obedient. These are the faces of labor trafficking in the U.S., tens of thousands of people condemned to modern-day slavery in our cities and towns. Ridding the nation of this scourge is difficult. Investigations need overlapping financial, economic and criminal actions to unravel the many bad actors involved. The U.S. Department of Labor has a central role in eliminating slavery here and abroad. We work tirelessly to prevent, protect and prosecute those responsible. The department’s Wage and Hour Division recently engaged in a public dialogue on the topic of human trafficking, and we encourage everyone to read these engaging ideas from a diverse range of stakeholders. In December 2021, the White House released the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. The plan re-emphasized the three pillars to address human trafficking – Prevention, Protection, Prosecution – and added Partnerships as the nexus to enable cross-cutting approaches and institutional effectiveness. The plan aims to address the root causes of human trafficking by taking action against the systemic injustices that communities, including underserved populations, experience. If you are or know someone who is a victim of labor trafficking, please contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline by phone at 888-373-7888, or by texting “HELP” or “INFO” to BeFree (233733). Anyone with questions about workers’ rights can email the Wage and Hour Division or call 866-4US-WAGE to speak confidentially with a trained professional. We can communicate with callers in more than 200 languages. For more information, visit dol.gov.

Scott Allen
U.S. Department of Labor
Regional Director for Public Affairs and Media Relations
Chicago



Indiana’s long-term economic prospects are poor

Indiana is in the midst of a fairly brisk recovery from the Pandemic Recession. We are creating jobs at the same rate as the nation as a whole, enjoy a low unemployment rate and our key sectors of manufacturing and logistics are booming. In fact, the Indiana manufacturing economy produced more goods in the second quarter of 2021 than in any three-month period in our state’s history. Of course, we did so with 11,500 fewer factory workers than in the last quarter before the pandemic started. In some ways, the current recovery mimics the recovery from the Great Recession. Indiana did far better than would be expected from 2007 to 2009, and by 2010 the state was recovering quickly. That was a notable departure from the jobless recoveries Indiana experienced after the 1991-92 and 2001 recessions. One important reason for the stronger recoveries in 2010 and 2021 is more aggressive federal policy than in previous downturns. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was \$856 billion, the CARES Act of 2020 was \$1.8 trillion and the American Rescue Plan of 2021 was \$1.9 trillion. In contrast, fiscal stimulus in 1991-92 was largely non-existent, and in 2001 involved modest tax cuts through 2003. Indiana’s recovery, partic-

Michael Hicks



ularly in manufacturing and logistics, was caused by the fiscal policy interventions of the Trump and Biden administrations. Likewise, the flush tax coffers Indiana now enjoys are wholly a consequence of COVID stimulus. That is not a critique of Indiana’s tax policy, just a consequential fact that needs to inform any discussion of future economic policy. The stimulus is over, and the return of inflation ensures that interest rates will soon rise. As intended, higher borrowing rates for cars, RVs and homes will slow economic growth and job creation. With what seems to be a coming retreat from COVID, makes it seem that things will soon return to a more normal state of affairs. More normalcy might be welcomed, but a sober assessment of Indiana’s economy makes it clear that state policymakers should be deeply alarmed about ‘normal.’ An honest, long-term assessment of the state’s economy should be treated like a three alarm fire. I’ll focus on the 21st century as a whole to make my point. In 2000, Indiana ranked 24th in average wages nationwide, with the typical worker earning almost 88 percent of the national average. By 2019, we’d dropped to 35th in average wages per job, or just over 85 percent of the national average. In just the decade of the longest economic expansion in American history, Indiana’s per capita income relative to the rest of the nation saw its biggest 10-year decline

in history. This sort of rapid declines in job quality and earnings are catastrophic for Indiana’s long-term prosperity, and addressing the decline is the number one policy issue facing the state. Apologists for this decline will argue that it is due to our lower cost of living. That is not merely wrong, but that answer would fail a high school economics quiz. Businesses pay wages based on productivity, not cost of living. Yes, across much of Indiana, the cost of living is low, but almost 100 percent of that is due to low housing costs. Housing prices are low only in places few Americans wish to live. In Indiana’s most expensive counties, income and wages are rising briskly, as is population. Just to clarify this point, from 2000 to 2019, Indiana created 154,000 new jobs, but 195,000 of these went to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area. No, that is not a math error. The non-Indianapolis portions of the state had 40,000 fewer jobs in 2019 than they did at the turn of the century, while Indianapolis grew much faster than the state as a whole. Only the highly educated, high-tax parts of Indiana are growing. Throughout the 21st century, Indiana has vigorously pursued tax cutting policies, but these tax cuts have been targeted almost exclusively at one or two industries. Our overall business taxes, as reported to the Federal Department of Commerce ranked 8th lowest in 2000, dropping to 6th lowest by 2019. However, our taxes on

manufacturing dropped from 25th to 4th lowest over the same period, while we shed 120,000 factory jobs. No one can construct an honest argument that this has bettered the Indiana economy. This is mostly because cutting taxes on manufacturing necessarily means spending less on key public services, while shifting the tax burden to households and other businesses. Of course, serious folks in the statehouse recognize this as a problem, but policies that would help remedy the issue are costly and face strong lobby groups. Still, continuing to pursue policies of the past will be far costlier, and the budget dilemma in the statehouse lays out the problem pretty starkly. Since 2010, all inflation-adjusted increases in Indiana’s state budget have been almost wholly allocated to mitigating the effects of poverty and low-wage employment. So, we are spending a lot more on child social services and Medicaid, and less on the things that would actually prevent poverty. Both higher education and K-12 have seen significant budget cuts. We are spending a smaller share of our state’s GDP on education than at any time in decades. Inflation-adjusted per student spending on college and K-12 students is lower than at any time for which comparable data is available. The consequences of this are obvious. The share of Hoosier high school graduates heading to college has been in decline for five years, and the absolute share of adults

with a college degree started to decline in 2019. I know many readers think college education is wasteful, and goodness knows I have my own complaints about higher education. However, American employers don’t share those concerns. Over the past 30 years, 81 percent of the net new jobs went to college graduates and the remaining to those who had been to college. Employment for high school graduates and dropouts declined. Sadly, Indiana’s experience could not be more different. From 2000 to the end of 2019, the Census Bureau and Department of Labor report that Indiana created 83,173 jobs for adults without a high school diploma, but only 67,730 for college graduates. Today, Indiana is seeing an aggressive downgrading of the education and skills of its workforce. In the 200-plus years of statehood, nothing like this has happened before, and it marks a deeply troubled future for our state. We are rapidly becoming an economic refuge for low-wage employers and employees. To be clear, businesses move to places that have an abundance of the workers they need. Jobs follow people and Indiana is educating and keeping fewer college graduates than at any time in decades. We should welcome the solid COVID recovery, but also recognize the growing frailty of Indiana’s long-term prospects. That is the state of the state of Indiana in 2022. *Michael Hicks may be reached by email at cberdirector@bsu.edu.*



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The successful candidate will be on call to respond to emergency situations on a rotating basis and must reside within a 12-mile radius of the Peru Utilities service complex within 90 days of employment. The position includes an excellent benefit package.

Submit resumes to Peru Utilities, PO Box 67, Peru, IN 46970, ATTN: Alice Hartley, or email to ahartley@peruutilities.com. A complete job description is available at www.peruutilities.com. Final candidates will be subject to a drug screen. Actual job offer will be contingent on results of a criminal record investigation, driving record check, and DOT physical examination. Peru Utilities is an equal opportunity employer.

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0900

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF WABASH) SS:
IN THE WABASH CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 85C01-2201-MF-000009
CROSSROADS BANK, Plaintiff
vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LINNIE B. WILLIAMSON, Defendant
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO: Unknown Heirs of Linnie B. Williamson
A Person whose whereabouts are unknown
You are hereby notified that Crossroads Bank has heretofore filed in Wabash Circuit Court at Wabash, Indiana, in the above referenced cause, its in rem complaint to foreclosure mortgage on the following described real estate: Lot Number Thirty-nine (39) in Fairfield's Addition to the Town of Roann, Indiana. Commonly known as 105 S. Ohio St., Roann, IN 46974 Parcel No.: 85-09-01-101-055.000-011
It is believed that you may claim some interest in and to the real estate. You are further notified that you must respond within thirty days after the last notice of the action is published, and in case you fail to do so, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. The name and address of the attorney representing the plaintiff is M. Josh Petruniw, Downs Tandy & Petruniw, P.C., 99 West Canal Street, Wabash, Indiana, 46992.
/s/ Lori J. Draper
CLERK, WABASH CIRCUIT COURT
HSPAXLP.01/12,01/19,01/26/2022

0900

NOTICE OF EXECUTION OF LEASE
Notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of Manchester Community Schools ("Board" and "School Corporation", respectively) on January 24, 2022, executed on behalf of the School Corporation, a Lease Agreement (the "Lease") between the School Corporation and the Manchester Community School Building Corporation (the "Building Corporation"). The Lease permits the construction of improvements to the school buildings of the School Corporation including construction of (i) a new enclosed hallway connector between the Administration/Junior High Building and High School Building; (ii) a new cafeteria and renovations at the High School Building, including repurposing classroom spaces for secure building entry and admittance offices, and repurposing the existing cafeteria as a business classroom, school store and snack/coffee bar, as well as the purchase of equipment including buses; and (iii) a new entrance and renovations at the Elementary School Building, including repurposing existing classroom space for security entry and office space, repurposing old office space as a family restroom and sensory room for STEM, and removal and replacement of the cafeteria floor with a new covering, and all related improvements in connection with (i) through (iii) above. Approval and execution of the Lease were made following the publication of notice and a public hearing made and held in accordance with Indiana Code 20-47-3-9. This notice is provided in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code 20-47-3-11. EXECUTED this 26th day of January, 2022.
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
By: Secretary
HSPAXLP.01/26/2022

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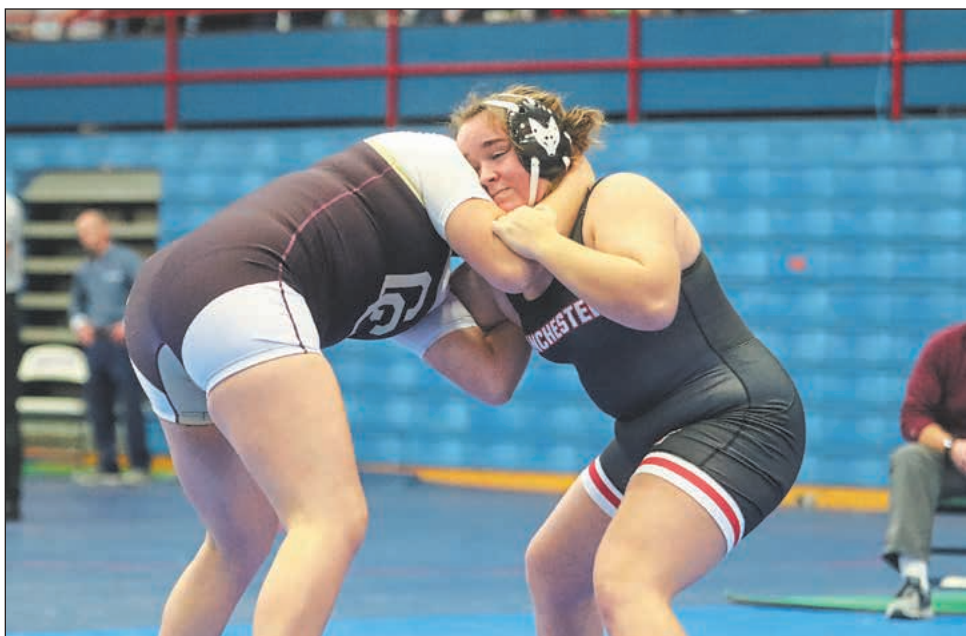
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MHS senior Maddie Parsons took home fourth place in the 195-pound weight class.



NHS freshman Ella Gahl finished in fifth in the 120-pound weight class.

Photos by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

Parsons of MHS and Gahl of NHS highlight girls wrestling state finals

Paloma Shull, of WHS, also finished in eighth place

By CLAY MAXFIELD

Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

KOKOMO – Wabash County’s top wrestlers showed out on Friday, Jan. 14 when representatives of Northfield (NHS), Manchester (MHS) and Wabash (WHS) high schools all competed in the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling (IHSBW) 2022 State Finals.

MHS senior Maddie Parsons took home fourth place in the 195-pound weight class and NHS freshman Ella Gahl finished in fifth in the 120-pound weight class. Paloma Shull of WHS finished in eighth in the 145-pound weight class.

For Parsons, a first-time wrestler and now state victor, her rise to dominance came in a hurry but was highlighted by the work ethic she brought to the mat.

“Our entire girls team is first-year wrestlers,” said MHS head coach Joseph Lamplot. “Right from the beginning, Maddie Parsons is a different individual. ... Parsons has been a leader from day one. She’s brought into what myself and the coaching staff have asked.”

“In practice, in competition, she does

it. She hammers them. I’ve coached tons of different sports, tons of different kids and she’s by far the most coachable.”

Parsons went 1-2 on the day, falling in her third-place match but will now begin to prep for nationals in March.

MHS freshman Jocelynn Molina also competed in the IHSBW but was pinned in her opening round.

Despite the loss, the future is bright for Molina.

“As far as moving forward, she’s going to be the face of our girls wrestling team,” said Lamplot. “She’s the opposite of what most wrestlers are. She’s cool, calm and collected in the moment.”

Friday marked the first time in Manchester’s wrestling history that the Squires qualified two wrestlers for state competition in either the girls or boys field.

For the Norse, Ella Gahl rounded out her stellar freshman season when she pinned Mishawaka representative Kaylee Smith in 1:40 while topping off her day with a 2-1 record.

Gahl has been in the top 10 rankings throughout the season and is confident that she can take this past season’s experience and grow for the future.

“Mainly, I know how I can compete with all of these girls so next year I should just be able to take it and run with it,” she said.

NHS coach Greg Gahl believes that Ella’s ability to take on any competition has played a role in her growth throughout the season.

“Her determination and willingness to wrestle anyone,” Gahl said. “She wrestled a semi-state qualifier a few days ago and when we told her, she was eager. That’s really impressive to me for a young wrestler.”

Paloma Shull, of WHS, rounded out the day of county wrestlers to make an impact at the IHSBW Finals when she was pinned in the seventh-place match while going 1-3 on the day.

Shull, a sophomore, has experienced a vast amount of success this past season. WHS head coach Matt Zickafoose knows that Shull has only begun to scratch the surface of what she can accomplish.

“I would say just throughout the year, this is one of Paloma’s first years really wrestling and she grew so much this year,” said Zickafoose. “She has a lot more work to do to get where she can wrestle some of those higher ranked wrestlers. She’s in those matches. She’s really close and that’s what’s so exciting about her is she’s going to be really good going forward.”

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplainedeal.com



Paloma Shull of WHS finished in eighth in the 145-pound weight class.



MHS freshman Jocelynn Molina also competed in the IHSBW but was pinned in her opening round.

SOUTHWOOD JV GIRLS DEFEAT MACONAQUAH



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Southwood freshman Aubree Huffman, No. 5, goes in for a score early against Maconaquah’s Chloe Smyth in junior varsity action on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at SHS. The Knights junior squad bested the Braves 24-21.

SOUTHWOOD VARSITY GIRLS BEATEN BY MACONAQUAH LAST TUESDAY AT SHS



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Junior guard Ella Hauptert fights for a loose ball with the Braves’ Lilly Maple during varsity action that saw Maconaquah win over the Knights 64-36 on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at SHS.

Manchester women’s basketball team defeats Earlham on Saturday

Spartans improved to 5-1 at home following the win

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University women’s basketball team defeated the Earlham College Quakers by a final score of 80-62 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference

(HCAC) play on Saturday, Jan. 22. Back inside the friendly confines of Stauffer-Wolfe Arena, the Spartans improved to 5-1 at home following the win.

The Spartans led throughout Saturday’s contest, and their winning effort was aided by some clutch foul shooting. Manchester finished 29-33 from the free-throw line – good for an 87.9 percent clip. The

Spartans were a +21 from the charity stripe.

First-year guard Eva Bazzoni, from Wabash and Manchester High School, led Manchester with a strong outside shooting performance. Bazzoni scored 22 points on the strength of 7-13 shooting from the floor and 6-10 shooting from beyond the three-point arc. Bazzoni added six rebounds.

Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, added 18 points and five rebounds for Manchester. Miller also shot 7-13 from the field. Miranda Bieghler, from Plainfield and South Putnam High School, also scored in double figures, finishing with 12 points. Bieghler added seven assists. Madison Stamm, from Fortville and Anderson Prep High School,

chipped in 12 points and seven rebounds off the bench on Saturday. In total, nine different Spartans scored in the win.

The Spartans (7-7, 4-3 HCAC) will travel to nationally-ranked Pennsylvania State University on Wednesday, Jan. 26 for a 1 p.m. matchup with the Pioneers.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Manchester wrestling competes in Wabash Invitational on Saturday

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University wrestling team competed in the Wabash College Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 22. Elijah Phillips, from Centerville, opened his day with a 12-4 major decision victory over Wabash's Jack Thursby in the 149-pound weight class. First-year Josh Lee, from Wyandotte, Michigan, Riverview Community High School, earned his first collegiate win of the season on Saturday, after winning by fall over West Liberty's Marshall Lipkey in the 174-pound weight class. In the 197-pound weight class, Alex Gronkiwicz, from DeMotte and Kankakee Valley High School, also earned his first win of the season following a pin of Alexis Aguirre of Aurora University. The Spartans are scheduled to make a return trip to Wabash College on Wednesday, Jan. 26 for a dual match against the Little Giants. Match time is scheduled for 6 p.m. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

WABASH JV GIRLS BASKETBALL BEATS LEWIS CASS



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Freshman sensation Kaitlynn Honeycutt leads an Apache charge to the basket against the Kings of Lewis Cass in a junior varsity shoot out that saw Wabash win 23-20 on Jan. 19 at WHS.

WABASH VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL EDGES LEWIS CASS



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Senior forward Linda Cordes goes for two inside the paint as the Apaches battled the Kings of Lewis Cass down to the wire. Wabash prevailed 46-44, on Jan. 19 at WHS.

Late basket sends visiting Earlham men's basketball past Spartans

By DILLON BENDER

Visiting Earlham College was able to make a basket with 2.8 seconds left in regulation to secure a narrow 73-71 victory over Manchester inside of Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Saturday, Jan. 22. Both teams battled nearly evening in Saturday's Heartland Col-

legiate Athletic Conference men's basketball contest, however, Kolden Vanlandingham's basket at the end of regulation was able to seal the victory for the Quakers as Manchester's final heave at the buzzer bounced harmlessly off of the backboard. The Spartans shot 42.1 percent (24-57) from the field on Saturday

afternoon. The Black and Gold knocked in 10 three-points. MU was also a perfect 13-13 at the free-throw line. Sophomore Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley and Prairie Heights High School, led Manchester with his first career double-double of 28 points and 14 rebounds. Christlieb's 28 points matched his

career-high which he set earlier this season – also against Earlham College. His 14 boards were also a career-high. Christlieb finished shooting 8-17 from the floor, 3-6 from downtown and was a perfect 9-9 at the free-throw line. Earlham finished shooting 42 percent (29-69) in Saturday's contest. The Quakers made all six of

their three-point makes in the game following halftime. Anthony Phillips led EC with 19 points. Tommy Makabu added 15 points. The Spartans (7-10, 6-4) will travel to Transylvania on Wednesday, Jan. 26 for a 3 p.m. meeting with the Pioneers. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*



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